Setting of fund for Urban Development

† 2539. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have asked State Government to set up a fund for urban development;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to provide financial assistance to the States keeping in view their poor economic condition;

(c) if so, by when the above assistance is likely to be provided; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (d) No formal proposal has been made by the Union Government to the State Governments regarding setting up of Urban Development Fund.

Formulation of National Policy for benefit of slum dwellers

† 2540. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of people live in the slum clusters in almost all the cities of the country;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to formulate a National Policy for the benefit of slum dwellers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (d) The Government of India is seized of the problem of slums in different States and Cities of the country and is trying to ameliorate this through "National Slum Development Programme" (NSDP), under which funds are released by way of Additional Central Assistance to different States by the Ministry of Finance on the recommendations of the Planning Commission.

While Government have framed and communicated broad guidelines to States, it is important to note that the condition of the slums vary from State to State and even from city to city. The Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation is in the process of evolving a Human Settlement Policy which will also encompass a slum policy. This will have wider relevance and be more meaningful as a national policy.

Proposal for development of towns in Bihar

† 2541. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal to develop some of the towns of Bihar is under consideration of Government;

(b) if so, the names of the towns and the details of the amount to be allocated for them during the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(c) the details of other effective steps taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (c) Under the Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns Scheme, projects to develop four towns, namely, Madhepura, Raxaul, Araria and Khagaria have been approved and covered under the scheme during the Ninth Five Year Plan.

A sum of Rs. 10 lakhs each has been released in the year

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.